

What is claimed is:

1. In an analytical method for characterizing the structure of a chemical compound by electrospray tandem mass spectrometry, the improvement which comprises derivatizing the chemical compound with ferrocenyl boronate.
2. The analytical method according to claim 1, wherein the chemical compound is an N-acetylated hexose carbohydrate.
3. The analytical according to claim 3, wherein the N-acetylated hexose carbohydrate is selected from the group consisting of 2-N-acetamido-D-glucosamine, 2-N-acetamidomannosamine, 2-N-acetamidogalactosamine, 2-N-acetamidoallosamine and lactofucosyltetraose.
4. The analytical method according to claim 1, wherein the chemical compound is an aldohexose or a 6-Dideoxyaldohexose.
5. The analytical method according to claim 4, where in the chemical compound is selected from the group consisting of D-glucose, D-Mannose, D-Galactose, L-Fucose and L-Rhamnose.
6. The analytical method according to claim 1, wherein the chemical compound is a maltose, cellobiose or lactose.
7. The analytical method according to claim 1, wherein the chemical compound is a catechol estrogen.
8. The analytical method according to claim 8, wherein the catechol estrogen is 2-hydroxyestradiol.

9. The analytical method according to claim 9, wherein the catechol estrogen is 4-hydroxyestradiol.
10. The analytical method according to claim 1, wherein the chemical compound is a D-Glc disaccharide.
11. The analytical method according to claim 1, wherein the chemical compound is an O-methyl glycoside.

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